



# SOIL AND WATER *Resources*



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December 2016

## **Soil and Water Districts Commission Holds November Meeting at the 68th Annual Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks**

More than 450 soil and water conservation district (SWCD) board supervisors, district staff, students and partners discussed ways to improve and protect Missouri's soil and water resources at the 68th annual Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) conference held Nov. 28 through 30 at the Lake of the Ozarks.

"A Celebration of Success" was the theme for the conference sponsored by MASWCD and the Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission. "This was a perfect theme because of the resounding citizen support to renew the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax," said commission chair Gary Vandiver.

Wayne Honeycutt, opening session speaker from the Soil Health Institute in North Carolina, talked about the importance of improving soil health to help feed the world's population as urban growth has reduced the acres of land available to grow crops. He predicted growing more food on fewer acres will be a challenge faced by farmers in the future. He recognized Missouri as a leading state in cover crops and spoke about their benefits for soil health and production.

Attendees were able to select from 18 different workshop topics from 25 workshop sessions. The workshops were designed to assist districts and partners with information to better serve customers for operation of the districts. Workshops included new approaches for farming, accounting, conservation planning, forestry, livestock production, animal waste, watersheds, Monarch butterfly habitat, nutrient/pest management, soil health, cover crops, technology, Facebook and sending email and text messages to subscribers through GovDelivery.



Wayne Honeycutt, Soil Health Institute president and chief executive officer, speaks at the opening session at the MASWCD 68th annual meeting held at the Lake of the Ozarks in November.

The following SWCD employees received 2016 area awards:

- Area 1 - Cara Hanway, Buchanan County SWCD
- Area 2 - Tyler Gordon, Livingston County SWCD
- Area 3 - Karen Sinclair, Pike County SWCD
- Area 4 - Mike Reynolds, Saline County SWCD
- Area 5 - Robert Ridgley (chosen for state award),  
Montgomery County SWCD
- Area 6 - Christian Wooldridge, Lawrence County SWCD
- Area 7 - Sandy Stratman, Maries County SWCD
- Area 8 - Sandy Beezley, Wayne County SWCD

The Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission held it's November meeting during the conference. A video of the commission meeting is available online at <http://on.mo.gov/2g7oPqw>.



**Soil and Water Districts Commission members Jeff Lance, Gary Vandiver, H. Ralph Gaw and Glen Cope listen to presentations at the November commission meeting.**



**Dan Greeson, Miller County SWCD board vice-chair and MASWCD Area 7 Director, talks with Colleen Meredith, Soil and Water Conservation Program Director, following the commission meeting.**



**Kurt Boeckmann, Ag Laisison and Rural Policy for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Bruce Biermann, Holt County SWCD board chair and MASWCD Area 1 Director, and Soil and Water Districts Commissioner Jeff Lance, who is also a board member of the Andrew County SWCD.**



**Dr. Randy Miles from the University of Missouri's Soil Health Assessment Center tells the Soil and Water Districts Commission about progress to analyze and catalogue soil samples submitted by Missouri landowners. The center is helping Missouri be recognized as one of the leading states in the nation for soil health.**



**Robert Ridgley, Montgomery County SWCD, received the 2016 District Specialist Award.**



**Mike Haeffner, Gasconade County SWCD, is presented the 2016 Board Supervisor Award by Audrain County District Technician and Missouri SWCD Employees Association Area Representative Chris Terry.**  
**Gasconade County SWCD Photo by Diana Mayfield**

### **Sign up to Receive Email and Text Messages from Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

Subscribe now to receive your choice of email or text messages from participating Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Subscribers will receive eAlerts about topics related to their local soil and water conservation district such as:

- Board meeting announcements
- Reminders about deadlines
- New information from the district
- Job announcements
- Field days
- Grazing schools

Visit [swcd.mo.gov](http://swcd.mo.gov) to find your local district office and subscribe online.

## **Spotlight on Soil and Water Conservation Practices: Animal Waste Management**



Animal waste management practices are designed to assist with the management of manure and animal mortality. The implementation of the practices contains the waste from animal production to protect water quality. The waste is recycled back onto the land as fertilizer following a soil test and the analysis of the manure or compost.

There are six practices available to management waste from animal production. Four of the practices collect and store manure from beef, dairy, poultry and swine production operations until the manure can be land applied at the proper time.

The other two practices help manage mortality in animal production by providing a safe way to dispose of carcasses.

The first practice is an incinerator for livestock and poultry carcasses. The other mortality management practice is a composting facility. The carcasses are broken down in the compost and the compost can be land applied as a fertilizer.

For more information about conservation practices and cost-share assistance, contact your local soil and water conservation district by visiting [swcd.mo.gov](http://swcd.mo.gov).

### **Dates to Remember**

Feb. 1-3 - Missouri Natural Resources Conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach  
[mnrc.org](http://mnrc.org)

Feb. 1 at 1 p.m. - Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach  
[dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/meetings.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/meetings.htm)



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